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***** Press Release *****

Jersey City Helps Close Food Inequity Gaps for over 3,000 Youth through annual Summer Food Service Program

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announces the annual Summer Food Service Program returning to Jersey City beginning next week to help feed Jersey City children who lack access to reliable sources of healthy food while school is closed for the summer. These nutritious meals help feed over 3,000 children citywide.

“Now more than ever, our families need assistance to help put food on their tables, and this year’s Summer Food Program will expand upon the food services the city has been providing to meet the exponential increase in demands for food assistance,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “It’s critical for us to provide much needed nutrition to some of our most underserved populations who struggle with healthy food access, especially now in the wake of this health and economic crisis.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nearly 11 million children live in “food insecure” households throughout the United States. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally-funded, state-administered program being served up locally by Jersey City’s Department of Health and Human Services. SFSP provides all children with the same free meal in accordance with a menu approved by the state agency.

Starting Monday, June 29th, through Friday, August 21st, breakfasts and lunches will be available to all of Jersey City’s youth, 18 years old and under, at various secured sites. There is no application process, families can simply show up at a designated site to pick up the healthy meals, Monday through Friday.

Local meal pickup locations are listed on the [SFSP website](#). Jersey City residents can also call the National Hunger Hotline at 866-3-HUNGRY (866-348-6479) or text “Summer Meals” to 97779 for closest sites and additional information.

“The summer months are especially difficult for children and teens who are food insecure as they no longer have their schools to rely on,” said **Stacey Flanagan, Director of the Jersey City Health and Human Services Department**. “We provide food to our low-income households year-round, and while

summertime is traditionally the most difficult in low-income areas, this year we are seeing a much greater need for food and other critical services amid this health and economic crisis.”

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